

December 31, 2009

My Fellow Memphians:

When I began the year 2009 as City Council Chairman, I had no idea what was in store for our city and what a historic year it would be. The year began with the Council focused on eliminating blight and crime in our city, hiring a full complement of police officers and making the most of President Obama's stimulus funds allocated to Memphis.

After weeks of contentious budget hearings this spring, the Council approved a \$601 million operating budget, a \$17 million reduction from Mayor Herenton's proposal. Shortly after the Council adopted the FY 2010 budget, Mayor Herenton announced his retirement. I was sworn in as Mayor Pro Tem on July 31, 2009 and immediately appointed my long time Council colleague Jack Sammons as Chief Administrative Officer, former US Attorney Veronica Coleman-Davis as Deputy City Attorney and former WMC-TV anchor Donna Davis as Media Director.

We hit the ground running and brought greater transparency and visibility to the office of the Mayor and the city administration. We opened the Mayor's Office to the public and invited citizens to visit City Hall. We reviewed and revised many city contracts and policies. We made progress on large projects such as Bass Pro Shop and redevelopment of the Fairgrounds and welcomed the Dalai Lama with the fist bump heard around the world.

Although I did not win the mayoral election, this campaign elevated Memphis politics to a new level of civility among the frontrunners. The amicable relationship between Mayor Wharton and me has existed a long time and we will continue to work together in service to our citizens. The Wharton administration and this Council are on a path to achieve great things for Memphis. Under this leadership we can live up to our full potential and become a truly world class city.

The new decade brings great opportunity to city government with the Metropolitan Government Charter Commission and pending resolution to questions surrounding school funding. In the new decade, the Council hopes to find new ways to continue the fight against poverty and crime in our city and to elevate the level of education and skills of our workforce. I truly believe our best days are right around the corner and that we are all privileged to be here at this time. Happy New Year and God Bless!

Very Truly Yours,

  
Myron Lowery